Henry Allan Gleason State Natural Area

Located in Mason County adjacent to the Sand Ridge State Forest, Henry Allan Gleason State Natural Area is 120 acres in size. Cover is primarily warm season grass and low growing woody shrubs interspersed with American Plum and Blackjack Oak thickets. Topography is that of a 60 foot sand hill or dune with several blowouts (open bare sand areas). Soils are all sand, and there is no open water on the site. The site is bounded on the east and north by Sand Ridge State Forest and on the west and south by private land.

Access the state natural area by traveling north 4 miles on Mason County Road 2800E from US 136 to Forest City, Illinois. At the intersection, turn west on Mason County Highway #20 and go 5 miles to Mason County Road 2300E. Turn north on 2300E and go approximately 2 miles to a signed parking lot on the west side of the road. A fire lane leads west out of the parking lot about 1/8 mile to the state natural area.

Hunting is available for whitetail deer only. Firearm deer hunting permits are allotted through random drawing. Archery deer hunting is by statewide permit. Applications for firearm and archery permits are available at https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx; click on the hunting/trapping icon. Archery deer permits are also available at licensed vendors.

All hunters are required to register for a Hunter Windshield Card online at https://dnr.illinois.gov/windshieldcard/index.asp. Sand Ridge State Forest is in the drop down box for Region 4. Each hunter must register for a free site hunter windshield card prior to hunting. Windshield cards must be posted and visible from outside of vehicles. Harvest must be recorded on the same web page by February 15th of each year.

Deer stands or ground blinds must be removed at the end of each day's hunt.

Public notice of prescribed fire will be included on the IDNR "Closure Listing" seven days prior to burn ignition. Prior to ignition a horn will sound three times to notify any person within the burn unit they have 45 minutes to exit the area. A second horn will sound three times 15 minutes after the first, indicating 30 minutes to exit the area. In addition, notification to the public will be reflected in handouts, hunter fact sheets, hunter windshield card sign-up web page, Sand Ridge State Forest web page, and Sand Ridge telephone answering machine.

For further information, contact Sand Ridge State Forest, P.O. Box 111, Forest City, IL. 61532, phone (309) 597-2212 or go online at https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx.

